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Imagery analysis report

# **Summary of Soviet Reaction to the Polish Situation, 17 Through 23 September 1980 (S)**

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Z-20108/80  
IAR-0248/80  
SEPTEMBER 1980  
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## SUMMARY OF SOVIET REACTION TO THE POLISH SITUATION 17 THROUGH 23 SEPTEMBER 1980 (S)

1. (S/D) This report summarizes imagery-derived intelligence on activity of Soviet military forces as it relates to possible intervention in Poland (Figure 1). The primary areas of interest discussed in this report are ground, air, and logistic forces in the three western USSR military districts (MD): Soviet Central Group of Forces, Czechoslovakia (CGF); Group of Soviet Forces Germany (GSFG); Northern Group of Forces, Poland (NGF); and Polish National Forces. The designators and subordination of military units are derived from collateral documents.<sup>1</sup> Additional reports will be issued as the situation changes.

### OVERVIEW

2. (S/D) [ ] a higher than usual level of ground force activity was seen in the western USSR MDs. This activity, however, was not at a high enough level to indicate immediate Soviet intervention in Poland, but it does represent a probable increase in military readiness capabilities and contingency planning/training for intervention.

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3. (S/D) At least three ground force maneuver divisions were currently active with high levels of training and out-of-garrison movement in the western USSR MDs—two in the Baltic MD and one in the Belorussian MD. Two divisions, one in the Belorussian MD (Slonim) and one in the Carpathian MD (Uzhgorod), have returned to garrison [ ]. There has been little Soviet airborne activity observed, and while a higher than normal level of logistics activity has been observed, the large-scale logistics build-up expected for intervention purposes has not occurred. Soviet forces in Poland (NGF) were possibly at a higher level of readiness with mobile communications units deployed in garrison, possibly forming a communications network between the western USSR MDs, NGF headquarters, CGF, and GSFG.

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### WESTERN USSR MILITARY DISTRICTS

#### Baltic MD

5. (S/D) Two of the four divisions in the 11th Guards Army in the Kaliningrad area were out of garrison. [ ] the 40th Guards Tank Division (GTD) at Sovetsk and Gusev were bivouacked in local training areas. The observation of civilian trucks (Figure 2) within the 40th GTD motor transport units [ ] indicates that some civilian mobilization has occurred in the 11th Army area of the Baltic MD. Major elements of the 1st Guards Motorized Rifle Division (GMRD) at Kaliningrad departed garrison [ ] and have not been located. The SA-4 brigade for the 11th Army, observed in convoy within garrison [ ] has probably also deployed to the field but has not been located. The 1st GTD at Kaliningrad and Kornevo and the 26th GMRD at Gusev remained in their home garrisons.

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6. (S/D) Supporting units in the Baltic MD such as the heavy-lift transport regiment at Kaliningrad and the railroad construction unit at Sovetsk showed no unusual activity. [ ] Pipeline and fuel service units in the Baltic MD have not been imaged. No unusual activity has been observed at army or higher level ammunition depots or tactical surface-to-surface missile support facilities to date. The KGB/UPS signal unit at Bagrationovsk, which had deployed to a nearby field location [ ] has not been imaged.

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7. (S/D) The remaining three divisions in the Baltic MD were not imaged during this period.

#### Belorussian MD

8. (S/D) [ ] a tank division was seen at Grodno, 6 nautical miles (nm) east of the Polish border. Heavy track activity, large quantities of stacked material in the ammunition storage area, and a large amount of equipment dispersed throughout the Grodno installation indicated that a tank division had recently been activated or arrived in the area. [ ] when the first evidence of unusual activity was observed here, only a second-generation division was known to be housed at Grodno. (This is a division with most of its equipment but with little or no personnel to man the equipment. Such a division would require extensive mobilization to be brought up to ready status—this usually occurs during crisis/wartime conditions.)

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9. (S/D) While it is possible the second-generation division at Grodno has been mobilized, activity seen here suggests that units from outside the Grodno area have been brought in to form a new division. Past mobilizations of second-generation divisions have not included the presence of self-propelled artillery, BMP armored personnel carriers, and a filled-out motorized transport battalion as seen at Grodno. It is possible that

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10. (S/D) In the 28th Army area, elements of the 46th GTD at Slonim, which had deployed to the field [ ] returned to garrison [ ]. The area at Slonim where the civilian vehicles had been seen with the motor transport battalion for the Slonim division has not been imaged [ ]. There has been no imagery of key logistic facilities or of the six other divisions in the Belorussian MD.

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### **Carpathian MD**

11. (S/D) Major elements of the 128th Motorized Rifle Division (MRD) at Uzhgorod, which moved out of garrison to field training sites [ ] were observed returning to garrison [ ]. This was the only division imaged [ ] where out-of-garrison activity was observed in the Carpathian MD. Elements of the MD's subordinate 24th MRD at Lvov and Rava Russkaya continued to reflect unusual activity. At Rava Russkaya, material had been loaded onto cargo trucks in the ammunition storage area [ ]. Observations of the 70th GMRD, 38th Army at Ivano Frankovsk, the 15th GMRD at Vladimir Volynskiy, 97th GMRD at Slavuta, and the 161st MRD at Izyaslav revealed normal activity. The remaining seven divisions in the Carpathian MD have not been imaged.

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12. (S/D) At Lukhov, the reserve medical battalion remained inactive [ ]. The independent POL motor transport battalion housed there did appear to be active with an increase in the number of vehicles observed. The activity suggested a recent return to garrison. Nondivisional logistics facilities at Rovno and Ivano Frankovsk appeared to be normal [ ]. Other key logistics installations in the Carpathian MD have not been imaged successfully [ ].

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### **SOVIET AIR FORCES (SAF)**

13. (S/D) [ ] one airfield in the Baltic MD and two in the Carpathian MD were seen on usable imagery; no unusual activity was detected. No usable imagery was acquired at airfields in the Belorussian MD.

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### **STRATEGIC ROCKET FORCES**

14. (S/D) No change in the status of SRF MR/IRBM units has been observed [ ]. Activity observed at SS-4 units (Drogobych Launch Site 2, Pinsk Launch Site 1, and Pruzhany Launch Site 2) on that date consisted of one or two missiles in training launch sequence. This activity does not appear to be associated with an increased readiness or a large-scale exercise.

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### **AIRBORNE**

15. (S/D) Unusual activity in the 106th Guards Airborne Division (GAD) at Tula indicated an increased readiness. [ ] a parachute regiment at Tula had palletized two possible ASU-57 assault guns and had loaded material (fuel containers and other supplies) onto cargo trucks. At Tula Airfield North [ ] a departure airfield associated with the 106th GAD, 14 CUB aircraft had been deployed [ ] and were observed in engine-run-on-load formation in the parking area. Two GAZ-66B cargo trucks were also identified in the immediate area. No airborne force deployment was observed. [ ] only two CUB were observed. The Ryazan regiment of the 106th GAD was imaged [ ] with no unusual activity observed.

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16. (S/D) [ ] the two parachute regiments of the 98th GAD at Bolgrad showed unusual activity. A convoy of 11 BMD armored personnel carriers, five cargo trucks, and four GAZ-66 A/B was loading onto a military train approximately 5 kilometers from the Bolgrad complex. Loaded material on cargo trucks, usually visible in the ammunition storage areas, was missing. No other indications of increased readiness have been observed.

### **NORTHERN GROUP OF FORCES**

17. (S/D) [ ] the KGB/UPS unit garrisoned at Rembertow was unusually active. A mobile satellite ground station, two R-410 antennas, and several communications vans were operationally deployed at the installation. The mobile satellite ground station operationally deployed at NGF headquarters in Legnica [ ] was still present. In the Polish National Forces, operationally deployed signal vans were identified in the 12th Mechanized Infantry Division Signal Battalion area at Szczecin. In addition, 21 cargo trucks were still on the parade field at Elblag Army Barracks 8 [ ] and 18 cargo trucks were assembled on the parade field at Elblag Army Barracks Danzig 2 [ ]. No other indications of increased readiness were observed.

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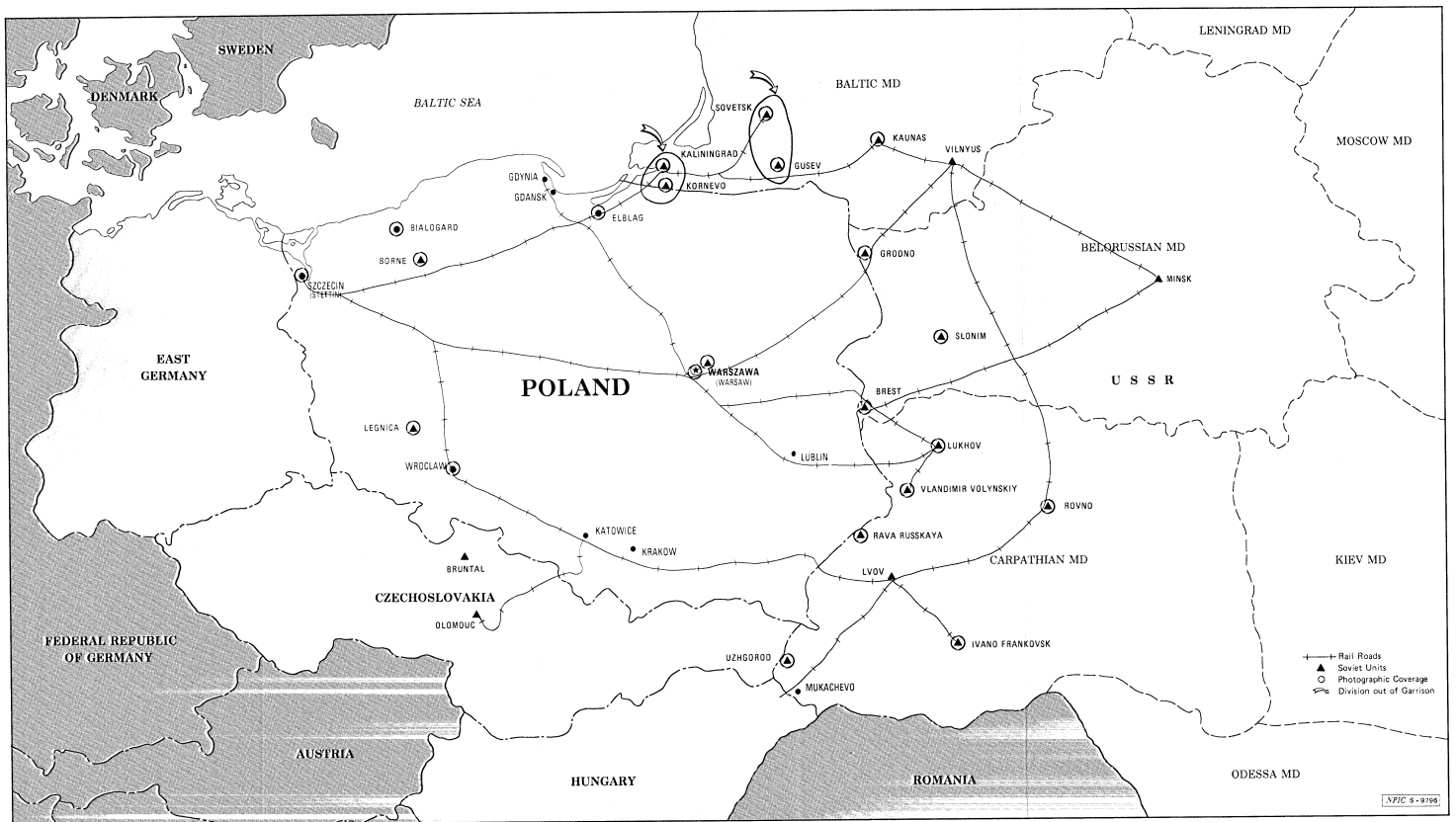


FIGURE 1. PHOTOGRAPHIC COVERAGE AND UNITS OUT OF GARRISON, EASTERN EUROPE AND WESTERN USSR

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18. (S/D) No coverage of key units in the GSFG and CGF (particularly 28th Corps) has been

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**DOCUMENTS**

1. DIA. DDB-1100-UR-79, *Ground Order of Battle (GOB)—USSR (U)*, Sep 79 (SECRET/WNINTEL)  
DIA. DDB-1100-PL-80, *Ground Order of Battle: Poland (U)*, Jul 80 (SECRET)  
DIA. DDB-1100-CZ-80, *Ground Order of Battle: Czechoslovakia (U)*, Aug 80 (SECRET)

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